

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6045

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT CH

SUBJ: NEW CONCERN ABOUT LABOR DISCIPLINE

REF: HONG KONG 7767

1. REFLECTING DISSATISFACTION OF THE CENTER OVER MID-YEAR REPORTS OF DISAPPOINTING ECONOMIC PROGRESS, PEKING IS APPARENTLY BEGINNING TO STEP UP ITS PRESSURE FOR LABOR DISCIPLINE. AS WE PROJECTED (REFTEL) PEKINGS' DECLINING ABILITY TO MOTIVATE WORKERS HAS LIKELY BROUGHT A HARDENING OF PRC LEADERSHIP VIEWS ON HOW TO HANDLE DISGRUNTELED WORKERS.

2. THE "GET TOUGH" LINE IN FUKINEN (HONG KONG 8243), WHILE DEALING WITH ACTIONALISM ACROSS THE BOARD, ALSO STRIKES AT FACTORY PROBLEMS THERE. A HONG KONG TA KUNG PAO ARTICLE JULY 14, REPORTING ON FACTORIES IN HANGCHOW, NOTED THAT IN THE PAST BOURGEOIS FACTIONALISM HAS OBSTRUCTED PROGRESS IN PRODUCTION, AND THAT "OATH -TAKING RALLIES" HAVE RECENTLY

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BEEN HELD IN CERTAIN ENTERPRISES TO EXPOSE THOSE WHO HAD SA-

BOTAGED STABILITY AND UINITY AND UNDERMINED PRODUCTION. SIMILARLY , A JULY 10 LHASA BROADCAST REPORTS ON A MEETING OF THE TIBET PARTY COMMITTEE BROADCAST REPORTS ON A MEETING OF THE TIBET PARTY COMMITTEE WHICH CALLED FOR STRENGTHENING RULES AND REGULATIONS TO ENFORCE STRICT LABOR DISCIPLINE.

3. MORE THAN JUST TALK, HOWEVER, A KIRIN JULY 11 BROADCAST TELLS OF THE MILITIA BEINGCHARGED WITH FACTORY SECURITY-- JUDGING FROM THE BROADCAST, SOMETHING NEGLECTED WHEN MILITIA WERE DESPATCHED TO THE STREETS THERE IN 1973. A MILITIA GROUP WAS, THEREFORE, ORGANIZED TO PATROL, STAND GUARD AND CARRY OUT OTHER DUTIES INSIDE THE FACTORY. THE MILITIA UNIT'S RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE "SAFEGUARDING THE VITAL PRODUCTION DEPARTMENT AND MAINTAINING LABOR DISCIPLINE AND PRODUCTION ORDER IN THE PLANT". A SIMILAR RESPONSE APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN MADE IN INNER MONGOLIA. A JULY 15 BROADCAST NOTES, AS PART OF THE EFFORTS TO ENHANCE DISCIPLINE IN A PAOTOU TEXTILE PLANT, THAT "SPECIAL PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED TO COPE WITH BAD ELEMENTS AND BAD THINGS".

4. FROM THIS HEIGHTENING ATTENTION TO LABOR DISCIPLINE, IT SEEMS ALMOST CERTAIN THAT NEW INSTRUCTIONS HAVE GONE OUT FROM PEKING TO CRACK DOWN ON LABOR PROBLEMS IN THE FACTORIES. THE RECENT PROMINENCE OF SEVERAL PROVINCIAL LEADERS AT RALLIES AND CONFERENCES ACROSS THE COUNTRY SEEMS DESIGNED TO PUT THE LOCAL STAMP OF APPROVAL ON THE CENTER'S MESSAGE AND TO TRY TO OVERCOME SLUGGISHNESS ON THE ECONOMIC FRONT AND MAKE GREATER PROGRESS TOWARDS PEKING'S AMBITIOUS PRODUCTION GOALS IN THE LAST FIVE MONTHS OF THE NATION'S FOURTH FIVE-YEAR PLAN.
CROSS

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